Disinvestment of Indian Telephone Industries

1376. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANAS WAMY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered a proposal for the disinvestment of the Indian Telephone Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission in respect of ITI limited are being examined by the Government. A decision will be taken in due course taking all relevant aspects into account.

(c) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Internet Services

1377. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalised the policy regarding privatisation of internet services;

(b) if so, how many ISP (internet service providers) have applied for licence, State-wise;

(c) how many licence have been issued so far and names of such ISP, State-wise;

(d) the different kinds of ISP licences and the fees fixed for such licences; and

(e) whether separate licences will be issued for ISP for educational institutions at a concessional rate, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Ten companies have so far applied for 13 ISP licences. The details in this regard are indicated in the Statement-I *(see* below)

(c) No licences have been issued so far.

(d) It is proposed to define the service area of an ISP in one of the three categories as indicated at Annexure "B" The details of licence fee and performance Bank Guarantees for the 3 categories are also indicated in the Statement-II. *(see* below)

(e) Educational institutions need not be an Internet Service Provider (ISP) for which any Indian registered company is eligible. They can access the Internet using the Point of Presence (POP) facilities of an ISP. They can also access Internet through a dedicated data network called Ernet operated by Deptt. of Electronics (DOE). The leased lines to Ernet of DOE are provided by the DOT at conc ssional rates.

Statement-I

Detail of Applications Received for ISP Licences.

(As on 3.6.1998)

Sl. No.	Service Area	Name of State in which service are falls.	No. of Applications.
1.	All India	All India	2
2.	Mumbai Metro Telephone System.	Maharashtra	3